THOUGHTS

ON THE

INEXPEDIENCY OF CONTINUING

THE

IRISH WOOLLEN WARE-HOUSE,

AS A RETAIL SHOP,

HUMBLY OFFERED TO THE

CONSIDERATION

OF THE

MEMBERS

OF BOTH

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT,

AND THOSE OF THE

DUBLIN SOCIETY

IN PARTICULAR.

DUBLIN.

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THOUGHTS, &c.

IN a commercial country where arts and manufactures are in their infancy, and the wiſhes of its inhabitants naturally leading them to an exertion of their induſtry and ſkill in promoting both, it becomes the duty of men, bleſſed by Providence with means and abilities to animate the lower ranks of the people, to lay down rules for the regulation of their labour and induſtry, to deviſe plans for purſuing with ſucceſs agriculture and the different manufactures, which are the great ſources of the proſperity of mankind. Happy nation where the great and opulent are found watching for opportunities to promote the general good! Happy people, bleſſed with ſuch patriots!

From a review of the different nations of the world, it would ſeem to the mind of a contemplative man that Providence had denied to every country ſome of the conveniencies of life that he had beſtowed upon others, which is one great ſource of civilization; and by rendering an intercourſe by commerce neceſſary, tends to form a union between different communities. —Ireland from the nature of its ſituation, its climate, and its ſoil, ſeems to be the only exception. Here is every thing neceſſary to conſtitute us a great, powerful, and happy people:—Yet the political ſituation of this ill-fated country is a ſubject of painful and melancholy reflection.—The hand of a ſuperior power reſtrains our commerce,—the revenues of our lands, the labour of our inhabitants are diſſipated in other countries, whilſt we look round us and ſee nothing but dejection and deſpair—A ſtarved peaſantry—Manufactures annihilated—and the children of induſtry famiſhing in our ſtreets!

Theſe calamities we owe almoſt entirely to that thirſt for riches, that deſire of dominion, that contempt for all other nations, which England has ever been remarkable for, hence thoſe impolitic reſtraints on our commerce, and hence all thoſe evils which a loyal and faithful people have long patiently borne—*for the mockery of pretended redreſs.*

But whilſt we cry out againſt the parent ſtate, for oppreſſion, which we ſuffer, *without even benefit to themſelves*, let us candidly examine our ſituation, and ſee whether our own miſconduct has not been injurious, and whether we cannot provide a remedy for ſome of thoſe evils we complain of.

The ſtate of agriculture in this country, before the bounty on inland carriage of corn took place, was miſerable beyond deſcription.—We were indebted to another kingdom for our daily bread, and it was not uncommon to hear people exult, and tell with gladneſs that a ſhip of corn had arrived; but the wiſe regulations of our legiſlature ſoon operated to a good purpoſe, and plenty diffuſed itſelf thro' the land. We have no longer occaſion for the corn of other nations. Our export of oats is much more conſiderable than our importation of grain from other countries. But alas! we had ſcarce attained this great object of our wiſhes, (plenty of corn the growth of our own ſoil) when manufactures began to droop, and at length went ſo far to decay that our induſtrious artizans were driven to beggary, and were it not for the benevolent aſſociations of the opulent, the induſtrious poor—(the real ſtrength and riches of the nation) muſt have periſhed in our ſtreets.

To trace the ſource of ſuch complicated diſtreſs, to find the cauſe of what may be called the ruin of our country, is ſurely an object worthy the attention of every diſintereſted benevolent mind, and the philanthrophy of the world will grant every indulgence to well-meant endeavours for ſo truly laudable a purpoſe!

It has been the object of patriotiſm in all well-regulated countries to pay equal attention to the proſperity of agriculture and manufactures; and it is a well-known truth that the one cannot thrive without the other. The farmer purſues his buſineſs with alacrity when he finds the wiſdom of the ſtate provides a ſure market for the conſumption of his produce; and on the other hand the manufacturer labours with chearfulneſs whilſt he ſees a juſt proportion between the value of his labour and the ſubſiſtence of his family. It therefore requires a nice hand to hold the balance between agriculture and manufactures, that neither ſcale ſhould preponderate, for where corn is too plenty and too cheap, the manufacturer has not occaſion to give ſo much of his labour for ſubſiſtence, and conſequently idleneſs and other evils frequently follow; on the other hand, where the manufacturer is obliged to give too much of his labour for ſubſiſtence, the price of labour muſt riſe, or the manufacture go to decay. Theſe general propoſitions hold true in every kingdom, but Ireland muſt trace her misfortunes to another ſource.—England as we have already mentioned, by impolitic reſtraints on our commerce, has confined the woollen manufacture of this country to the conſumption of its inhabitants; and driven herſelf from almoſt every market in Europe where her woollen goods were formerly ſold, ſhe is reſolved to exclude us alſo; not content with that, it is a ſort of offence that we ſhould endeavour to manufacture as much woollen-cloth as would be ſufficient for our own uſe. The way to pleaſe our taſk-maſters would be to lay down the ſhuttle at once, and to ſay the truth, the folly of ſome, the avarice of others, and the miſtaken notions of many from whom better things ought to be expected, have gone a great way towards ſettling the buſineſs entirely to their ſatisfaction; and if things go on a little longer in their preſent train the woollen manufacture muſt fall, never to riſe again in this kingdom.

The woollen manufacture of this country has been viſibly on the decline for ſome years paſt, and that truly patriotic body, the Dublin Society, alarmed at the proſpect, reſolved to eſtabliſh a ware-houſe for the ſale of Iriſh cloths only by retail. In ſome time the houſe was aſſorted, and the Society having humanely undertook to pay all expences attending the eſtabliſhment, the clothier purſued that line of conduct which muſt tend ultimately to enrich himſelf, and deſtroy the manufacture of his country.

The cauſe for eſtabliſhing ſuch a ware-houſe is allowed to be this:—A general complaint prevailed among the nobility and gentry, that the woollen drapers of the city of Dublin, who are a numerous, opulent and reſpectable body of citizens, had given all poſſible encouragement to Engliſh manufactures, and that they generally ſold Engliſh for Iriſh, and *vice verſa*, ſo that it was impoſſible to be certain of finding an Iriſh cloth at a woollen draper's ſhop, and hence it was that the Dublin Society reſolved to eſtabliſh a houſe where every man might be ſure of purchaſing Iriſh cloth only. If the woollen drapers of Dublin preferred the manufactures of England to thoſe of their native country, they merit the contempt of every humane man in the kingdom; and on the other hand if the clothiers have ſpread ſuch reports without proper foundation, they ſurely deſerve at leaſt an equal degree of contempt, and they ſhould no longer enjoy the confidence of a generous public.—The matter can be fairly explained. I argue thus. In all commercial dealings, it is allowed that intereſt is the ruling principle; and if we admit that ſuperfine cloths cannot be made in either kingdom but with Spaniſh wool, it follows, that the importation of woollen cloth is attended with riſk and expence, which muſt make an Engliſh ſuperfine cloth come dearer to the importer than an Iriſh ſuperfine can be ſold for here, and therefore it is not the intereſt of the woollen draper to import it; and if it be aſſerted, that the long credit which

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the Engliſh generally give, is an inducement to the ſhopkeepers to deal with them, I beg leave to expoſe the fallacy of ſuch an aſſertion.—The credit given by the Engliſh is nominally twelve months, the invoices are inſtantly ſent off by poſt, and the goods forwarded by land carriage, when the manufacturer pleaſes, to Cheſter or Liverpool, there to be ſhipped at the riſk of the Dublin ſhopkeeper; and it generally happens, whether thro' management, or otherwiſe, that a ſpace of at leaſt four months (and often longer) elapſes between the date of the invoice and the time of receiving the goods; and as the Engliſh are always exact in drawing for their money, it follows that the uſual credit on Engliſh goods is eight months inſtead of twelve.—And if a woollen draper applies to a middling manufacturer in the Liberty, he will ſell him a ſuperfine cloth at ſix months credit; ſo that if the woollen draper has an inclination to prefer Engliſh ſuperfine cloth to Iriſh, it muſt proceed from ſome other motive—long credit is out of the queſtion.

With regard to the other aſſertion, that the woollen-draper has conſtantly ſold Engliſh for Iriſh cloth, it will be found to be eqally groundleſs, for this reaſon—he would have more profit by ſelling the Iriſh; but the truth is, *that* predilection for Iriſh manufactures, *that amor patriæ* which now glows in the breaſt of every man in this kingdom, was not always a part of our national character; too much wedded to the fineries of other countries, Engliſh Goods were more called for than Iriſh, the Shopkeeper was under a neceſſity of importing them to pleaſe gentlemen who would now reject them; is therefore the ſhopkeeper to be blamed? Or are we to applaud the ingenuity of a manufacturer, who invents a tale merely to anſwer his own purpoſe?

But the queſtion for the conſideration of every diſintereſted man in the Kingdom I take to be this—Is the woollen manufacture of this city improved and increaſed

increaſed by the eſtabliſhment of the Iriſh woollen-ware-houſe? I anſwer no, and I argue thus:

The manufacture of fine broad cloth is now in tolerable perfection here, but though it may be more conſiderable in quantity than it was at ſome gloomy periods before the eſtabliſhment of the warehouſe, yet I deny that it is equal to what it was forty years ago. In the year 1744, the quantity of Spaniſh wool imported into Dublin, and *bona fide* ſold, amounted to 600 bags; the quantity imported this year (notwithſtanding every aid which a benevolent public have given to the manufactures) falls infinitely ſhort. The number of looms employed in the Liberty in weaving coarſe and fine broad-cloth, previous to the eſtabliſhment of the ware-houſe, exceeded 300; at preſent there are not 100 looms at work. A melancholy proof that what was intended as a public benefit, has operated as a public injury!

The woollen drapers have been frequently held out to the public as a ſet of intereſted, deſigning men, whoſe motives were intirely ſelfiſh; but their conduct ſpeaks a contrary language, and is a convincing proof that if the manufacturers acted with the ſame candour and public ſpirit, the cloathing buſineſs would now be in a flouriſhing ſituation, and neither party would have had cauſe of complaint. The drapers ſeeing that the warehouſe continued open as a retail ſhop, where all the ready money of their cuſtomers centered, and finding that it became the intereſt of ſix or eight men who were opulent, and ſupplied the houſe with goods, to refuſe to ſell the ſhopkeepers any fine cloths, they were under a neceſſity of encreaſing their imports; the credit part of the buſineſs fell to the draper, thoſe who bought for caſh dealt at the manufacturers ſhop; and the draper, loſing by degrees all intercourſe with the manufacturer, imported coarſe and fine from England.

Candour

Candour obliges us to confeſs that reſentment might have had ſome ſhare in forming the reſolutions; ſuch is the weakneſs of human nature! they conceived their bread to be ſtruck at by an eſtabliſhment which they held to be unneceſſary and abſurd, and well knowing the diſpoſition of the patriotic ſociety to whom it owed its origin, they reſolved to preſent a memorial on the ſubject; previous to which they ſummoned all the clothiers of Dublin to a meeting, and having urged every thing that could be ſaid in favour of ſuch an eſtabliſhment, and on the other hand having uſed proper arguments to ſhew how deſtructive it was to the manufacture, it was there almoſt unanimouſly reſolved, that the woollen-ware-houſe was injurious to the manufacture, and that the clothiers ſhould preſent a memorial to the Dublin Society, requeſting it might be ſhut up, or opened as a wholeſale ware-houſe *only*; the memorial was ſigned by ſixty-three clothiers, and delivered to the ſociety the following day; ſeven clothiers only having refuſed to ſign it.

After ſuch a proceeding no man could expect that the retail ſales of the ware-houſe would be continued; but though the Society in general deemed a retail ware-houſe unneceſſary, yet it was urged, that however proper the requeſt was, it was inexpedient to make an alteration at that time.

The woollen drapers were not the only people affected by the continuation of a retail warehouſe; the clothiers, whoſe manufactures were confined to materials the growth of our own country, were almoſt entirely ruined; they had their rooms piled with coarſe and middling cloths, and no proſpect of ſale; fine cloths made of foreign materials were retailed without any expence to the manufacturer for ready money at an enormous profit, while cloths made of our own wool remained unſold. A monument of our folly, and want of true diſcernment of our own intereſt!

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In every country of Europe where a manufacture of woollen cloth is carried on, the retail buſineſs is conducted by ſhopkeepers only; they are middle men between the manufacturer and the buyer; they furniſh the one with money, and the other with credit if neceſſary; they are a conſtant check upon the manufacturer with regard to the quality of his goods; they are proper judges, and as their reputation is at ſtake for every ſuit of cloths they ſell, they will take care not to buy bad goods. A manufacturer ſells his cloth and has done with it; the draper is a public man, and his character is pawned for the quality of his goods, and he will take care not to forfeit it.

Again, the eſtabliſhment of a retail ware-houſe muſt have for its object a vaſt conſumption of Iriſh fine cloth; the annual ſales there hitherto have averaged about 20,000l. this year it will probably be more conſiderable; are we then to part with the influence, the induſtry of a reſpectable number of opulent ſhopkeepers? and muſt we compel them to ſell Engliſh goods, or ſhut up their ſhops? All men who chooſe to go to market with money may reſort to the manufacturers ſhop, but thoſe who want credit muſt and will go elſewhere.

The public will probably be aſtoniſhed when they hear that ſeveral individuals among the woollen-drapers have ſold annually Iriſh goods, wholeſale and retail to the amount of 25,000l. Are ſuch men to be driven to an Engliſh market? The meaſure is a groſs abſurdity, and the conſequence truly alarming.

The perſons who now ſupply the woollen-ware-houſe with ſuperfine goods, have not encreaſed the number of their looms; the number ſtands pretty much the ſame as before the eſtabliſhment of that houſe; they know the conſumption for ready money cuſtomers, and they will keep a ſtock ſufficient for *that* demand, and no more;—the manufacturers out of employment may ſtarve for them. Their end is anſwered: The public

public have no tie over them at all; when we are told of the wiſe regulations adopted by the ſociety to prevent improper goods obtaining admiſſion there, we admire the ſagacity of the rulers, but cannot help expreſſing our ſurpriſe at the complaints we frequently hear from gentlemen of the ſociety, concerning the quality of cloth they purchaſed there.

When the Dublin Society erected a retail woollen-ware-houſe, they eſtabliſhed a monopoly in the heart of a commercial city; their intention was to improve and extend the manufacture, but the effect was directly the contrary. The ware-houſe is ſupplied by ſix or eight opulent men, who put their goods there at what price they pleaſe, they are offered to the public at that price, and whilſt the preſent diſpoſition holds the buyer muſt pay what the manufacturer demands. Good or bad—ſuch are the terms, and you muſt be ſatisfied.

The clothier of ſmall property is ſhut out, he is excluded from any connexion with that houſe---for ſuppoſing him worth 400l. and allowing for the wool he muſt have at the ſcribblers, for what he muſt have in the ſpinners hands, that with the weaver, &c. he cannot have more than two or three pieces of cloth finiſhed at any time: now in the name of common ſenſe, can ſuch a man wait the ſlow and tedious ſale of three pieces of goods in a public retail ware-houſe.---No, the ware-houſe makes him a bankrupt, he muſt eat out his little property, and become a journeyman to a ware-houſe monopoliſt.

Whereas if the trade was open, the property of the ſhopkeepers afford immediate relief; the clothier of ſmall ſtock has recourſe to an open market, he ſells for money or at time; and if he ſells on credit, he can procure the money at any of the banks---thus his work commences again, all hands are engaged, and all partake of the happineſs reſulting from the immediate market for his conſtant induſtry.

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Now this relief is denied to the clothier of ſmall property, for the ſhopkeeper is driven to another market ;-- he will not---he cannot buy from him ; the moſt valuable part of his buſineſs, the ready money trade, is gone into another channel ; he has no chance of living by the ſale of Iriſh cloth, for no ready money cuſtomer will call to him for it,---an aſſortment of ſuperfine Iriſh cloth he cannot expect to have whilſt the manufacturers are ſhopkeepers ; it would ſpoil their aſſortment to deal with him--- and they are too fond of the two profits to relinquiſh them. Hence it follows, that by eſtabliſhing a retail ware-houſe, we cut out work for the Engliſh, and entirely annihilate the manufacture of our own wool.

There is no ſubject that has undergone more minute diſcuſſion, or cloſer examination, than the propriety of eſtabliſhing a retail woollen-ware-houſe.--- A committee of the legiſlature took abundance of pains to procure proper information on the ſubject--- it ſeemed to be the univerſal opinion that the ware-houſe, under its preſent regulation, ought not to be ſupported, yet it continues to ſtand to the aſtoniſhment of every diſintereſted man who has been at the trouble of making proper enquiry about it.---I am willing to hope that a want of proper information in ſome particulars is the cauſe why redreſs has been delayed.---In a committee of parliament, the changes were rung on the want of cloathing wool in this kingdom, a ſubject which, if handled *with any degree of art*, will for ever miſlead gentlemen of the beſt diſpoſitions in the world. That cloathing wool has fallen ſhort in this kingdom, no man will deny ; but that the quantity is ſo ſmall, as the opulent manufacturers would make us believe, is an evident falſehood.---Nay, ſome of them in the frenzy of their zeal for their own good, went ſo far as to ſay we had no cloathing wool at all---this however I will anſwer for, that they do not go to look for it---the vaſt quantity of wool bought up at Ballinaſloe for the

Cork

Cork market, affords a great deal of cloathing wool, which might be worked up into what is called forty four and fifty cloths, but there is no demand for ſuch wool now amongſt us; and it does not require the gift of prophecy to tell what becomes of it.---Intereſted people will cry out, the French get none of our wool; but the contrary will appear to be true---they are well ſupplied with our combed balls and ſorted wool, and they will get it at all hazards, whilſt the hands of oppreſſion reſtrains *our* Iriſh commerce ---they are ſupplied by England alſo, and the whole Britiſh navy cannot prevent it.

In every commercial country where manufactures are eſtabliſhed, the manufacturer has an intereſt ſeparate and independent of the public, his proceedings ought therefore to be watched with a jealous eye,—to keep him under ſuch regulations as will tend to produce good goods at reaſonable prices, ſhould be the object of every wiſe government---but when he or others propoſe an innovation in an eſtabliſhed mode of ſale, which has for ages ſubſiſted in every well-regulated kingdom, great miſchief is to be apprehended, and it becomes the duty of every lover of his country to oppoſe the growing evil. By the preſent monopoly it has been ſhewn that all poſſible encouragement has been given to a few opulent men, to buy materials, the growth of another country, and for which we muſt ſend out the guineas; and as from the very nature of the eſtabliſhment none but the opulent clothier can join in the ſtock, ſo it follows, that upwards of ſixty manufacturers and their dependants muſt remain a dead weight on the public; the loſs of ſo much induſtry in a ſtate is an evil of the firſt magnitude, and demands immediate redreſs---by this abſurd plan, the manufacture of our own wool ceaſes, the market is narrowed, and all competition deſtroyed; it is the intereſt of the monopoliſt to narrow the one and deſtroy the other --for in all monopolies the price of goods is

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the greateſt that can be exacted, or ſqueezed out of the buyer; whereas, if you throw open the doors of commerce, and let every man in, the price will be the loweſt that the ſellers can afford to take, and continue the manufacture. It was an obſervation of a late elegant writer, " The genius of trade ſickens at the very thoughts of reſtriction, and it dies upon actual reſtraint." The competition which an open market affords is alſo of infinite uſe, men muſt be careful of the quality of their goods, otherwiſe they will remain unſold.

The manufacture which can be carried on with materials the growth of our own country, ſhould be the great object of our attention; by the abſurdity of our conduct we have almoſt entirely annihilated it---here is room for melancholy reflection, and here a field for exerciſing the genius and humanity of every benevolent mind! Inſtead of expending our money in ſupporting an eſtabliſhment, which now appears to have done infinite miſchief, let us endeavour to trace the cauſe of the preſent ſcarcity of fine wool, and try if poſſible to procure a proper ſupply of it. We have ſuffered the breed of ſheep with fine wool to fall off in this country, for want of due attention to our manufactures, and oppreſſed as we have been (and ſtill are) by England, it is eaſy to account for our indolence; but now that all ranks of men ſeem diſpoſed to promote the public good, a favourable opportunity offers of reſcuing our country from impending ruin. Active exertions on the part of thoſe who are peculiarly intereſted in the proſperity of the kingdom, and in ſtations ſufficiently elevated to give vigour and ſpirit to great undertakings, will riſe this drooping country from her languid condition; poverty and oppreſſion have produced an univerſal languor in this ill-fated country; habits of idleneſs can only be conquered by ſlow degrees---ſtrengthen the hand of the impoveriſhed manufacturer, find employment

ployment for him and his helpleſs family, and you inſpire him with a ſpirit of independence, you lead him from miſery to happineſs.

But to return to the wool; not many years ago we had plenty of cloathing wool in this kingdom, and a very conſiderable manufacture of Iriſh broad cloth was carried on, not only in Dublin, but in many other parts of the kingdom---the retail warehouſe, as we have already ſhewn, operated powerfully in deſtroying the manufacture; the clothier, finding no demand for his goods, could not attend the fairs of Mullingar and Ballinaſloe; the farmer ſeeing the cloathing wool become a drug, turned his thoughts to a large breed of ſheep, the wool of which he knew would ſell to advantage, hence the cloathing wool of this country gradually leſſened, and hence ſprung many evils, which the minds of men were apt to attribute to other ſources; the pooreſt cottagers of the kingdom ſhared in ſome degree the general proſperity; whilſt our country afforded plenty of cloathing wool a ſpirit of induſtry diffuſed itſelf wherever the inhabitants were able to purchaſe a fleece of wool, employment was found for young and old, this made part of their occupation, even when the daily labour of the farm was at an end, frizes and other courſe goods, perhaps the moſt ſerviceable ever produced in any country, were to be found in every village; fairs were eſtabliſhed for the ſale of them in many parts of Ireland, the people of Dublin reſorted thither to purchaſe them---but ſuch is our unhappy ſituation at preſent, and ſuch the conſequence of ill-timed regulations, that our worthy neighbours the Engliſh ſupply us now even with frizes to cover our poor.--- Many are the important advantages which reſult to a country when it is employed in manufacturing its own native products; but the proſpect is diſmal indeed when the manufacture is entirely confined to foreign materials!—the price may be raiſed ſo as to ruin the manufacture—the exportation may, from whim

whim or caprice, be ſtopt, and your artiſt reduced to beggary—thus may the internal peace and happineſs of the whole community be endangered!

But it may be objected that the farmer finds his advantage in having large ſheep, and will not therefore be prevailed on to alter his plan; but I ſay that fine wool is not confined to ſmall ſheep; large rams may be had with a fleece ſufficiently fine for our purpoſe. A well-directed bounty from the legiſlature, on the application of the Dublin Society, and under their management and direction, will ſoon retrieve all we have loſt. Our wiſhes lead no farther than a fleece which will yield a tolerable quantity of what is called 50 wool, and ſome little of 60.

From this wool, with a ſmall addition of Spaniſh, a refine cloth may be made, ſo as to be ſold at ten or twelve ſhillings per yard, and if my judgment may be relied on, I pronounce ſuch a cloth to be more ſerviceable that what is generally ſold for Spaniſh; I ſtake my reputation with the public, that the degree of fineneſs will not be complained of, and if a competition ſhall take place among the manufacturers, ſuch cloth will have a moſt beautiful appearance.

The immortal *Swift* has declared, that he who made one grain of corn, or one blade of graſs to grow, where none had ever grown before, was a greater patriot, and deſerved better of mankind, than the whole race of politicians put together; and I ſay that he who encourages and eſtabliſhes a manufacture, the materials of which are the growth of his own country—*is a patriot indeed!*

To conclude: I have delivered my thoughts freely on a ſubject, the moſt important, perhaps, that ever came before the public. If I have erred, it will, I hope, be attributed to my head and not to my heart, for I am incapable of attempting to miſlead any man;

man; the public good is my object, and time will convince that public that I am right. It will, however, probably be expected that I ſhould point out ſome mode for reconciling the clothiers who ſupply the ware-houſe and the woollen-drapers, for until that is done we are every day drawing nearer to ruin.—No man will deny that the proſperity of a manufacture almoſt entirely depends on the extent of the capitals employed by thoſe who retail the goods; the experience of all ages confirms this obſervation, and therefore the ſhopkeepers are of ſuch importance to a manufacture, that it cannot be carried on to advantage without them.

The retail warehouſe found advocates among gentlemen, becauſe they imagined it tended to promote and eſtabliſh the manufacture; but now that the contrary has been fairly proved to every diſintereſted, unbiaſſed man in the kingdom, prejudice will give way, and the general good be the object of every lover of his country.

Vain are the expectations of thoſe who propoſe plans, not founded on the general principles of equity. If gentlemen are unwilling to give up the retail ſale of the ware-houſe at preſent, let us endeavour to draw a line, ſo as to equalize the advantages between the manufacturer and the draper, giving to the former every advantage he is fairly entitled to, and reſerving to the latter a proper emolument for the uſe of his property, and the application of his induſtry.

My propoſal therefore is, that the woollen-drapers ſhall ſolemnly engage not to import any woollen cloth under 12s. per yard for twelve months, and they ſhall alſo engage to purchaſe 60,000l. of Iriſh cloths within a year; and in conſequence they ſhall

have liberty to go to the woollen-ware-houſe every day, and there to chooſe ſuch goods as they have occaſion for, the manufacturer ſhall be obliged to allow them ſix months credit for all goods they intend to buy, and a deduction of $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. from the price marked on each piece; and in caſe the manufacturer ſhall refuſe to give credit to the woollen-draper, legal intereſt for the time (3 per cent.) ſhall be allowed on payment of money; thus the ſhopkeeper will be enabled to ſell at the manufacturers retail price, and have a profit of one penny to the ſhilling, with which he muſt be ſatisfied.

Careleſs of order or ornament I have delivered a plain narrative of facts, which muſt flaſh conviction wherever prejudice has not taken too deep a root; and if my poor endeavours ſhall tend to promote the manufactures of my native country, my ultimate wiſhes will be crowned with the deſired ſucceſs.

An

An Abſtract taken from the Cuſtom-houſe Books, ſhewing the Increaſe of Importation of old and new Drapery for four Years, after the Eſtabliſhment of the Woollen Warehouſe.

	Old Drapery.	New Drapery.
1769	207,433¼	238,428
1770	152,967	146,601
1771	95,958	155,603
1772	124,230¼	202,237
	580,588½	742,869

	Old Drapery.	New Drapery.
1773	211,291	242,099
1774	195,059	222,761
1775	217,664	347,649
1776	276,553	376,819
	900,567	1189,327
	580,588	742,869
	319,979	446,458
		319,979

Total Increaſe the laſt four Years, *Yds.* 766,437

F I N I S.

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MUSEUM

for Doctor Anderson

from

James McCabe

Pool Street